Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/847,942	JOSEPH ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Camie S. Thompson	1774	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to *Amendment filed March 21, 2005*.

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are *1-20, 22-25 and 40-49*.

3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.

4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
   a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
      1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
      2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .
      3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

   * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
   (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
      1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
   (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____ .
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Ann Meuting on June 3, 2005.

The application has been amended as follows: Claims 26-39 are cancelled.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art does not provide for an adhesive nonwoven web comprising pressure sensitive adhesive fibers, wherein the pressure sensitive adhesive fibers comprise:

a pressure sensitive adhesive component; and

an organic polymeric reinforcing material comprising a plurality of substantially continuous minimicrofibers having a diameter of no greater than about 10 microns within the pressure sensitive adhesive component;

wherein the pressure sensitive adhesive fibers comprise about 60 weight percent to about 95 weight percent of the pressure sensitive adhesive component and about 5 weight percent to about 40 weight percent of minimicrofibrous organic polymeric reinforcing material based on a total weight of the pressure sensitive adhesive fibers, and further wherein a nonwoven web

comprising the pressure sensitive adhesive fibers and having a basis weight of about 55 g/m^2 has a maximum load of at least about 30 g/cm, which is at least about 150% of load at yield point, and an elongation at break of at least about 50%.

Additionally, the prior art does not provide for an adhesive nonwoven web comprising pressure sensitive adhesive fibers, wherein the pressure sensitive adhesive fibers comprise:

a pressure sensitive adhesive component; and a reinforcing material comprising a metallocene-catalyzed polyolefin with the pressure sensitive adhesive component

wherein the reinforcing material comprises a plurality of substantially continuous minimicrofibers having a diameter of no greater than about 10 microns;

wherein the pressure sensitive adhesive fibers comprise about 60 weight percent to about 95 weight percent of the pressure sensitive adhesive component and about 5 weight percent to about 40 weight percent of minimicrofibrous organic polymeric reinforcing material based on a total weight of the pressure sensitive adhesive fibers, and further wherein a nonwoven web comprising the pressure sensitive adhesive fibers and having a basis weight of about 55 g/m^2 has a maximum load of at least about 30 g/cm, which is at least about 150% of load at yield point, and an elongation at break of at least about 50%.

The prior art does not provide for adhesive nonwoven web comprising pressure sensitive adhesive fibers, wherein the pressure sensitive adhesive fibers comprise:

a pressure sensitive adhesive component comprising a crosslinked acrylate copolymer, wherein the crosslinked acrylate copolymer comprises copolymerized monomers comprising at least one monoethylenically unsaturated alkyl (meth) acrylate monomer, at least one monoethylenically unsaturated free-radically copolymerizable reinforcing monomer having a

homopolymer glass transition temperature higher than that of the alkyl (meth) acrylate monomer; and

a reinforcing material comprising a metallocene-catalyzed polyolefin within the pressure sensitive adhesive component;

wherein the reinforcing material comprising a plurality of substantially continuous minimicrofibers having a diameter of no greater than about 10 microns within the pressure sensitive adhesive component;

wherein the pressure sensitive adhesive fibers comprise about 60 weight percent to about 95 weight percent of the pressure sensitive adhesive component and about 5 weight percent to about 40 weight percent of minimicrofibrous organic polymeric reinforcing material based on a total weight of the pressure sensitive adhesive fibers, and further wherein a nonwoven web comprising the pressure sensitive adhesive fibers and having a basis weight of about 55 g/m^2 has a maximum load of at least about 30 g/cm, which is at least about 150% of load at yield point, and an elongation at break of at least about 50%.

Also, the prior art does not provide for adhesive nonwoven web comprising pressure sensitive adhesive fibers, wherein the pressure sensitive adhesive fibers comprise:

a pressure sensitive adhesive component; and

an organic polymeric reinforcing material within the pressure sensitive adhesive component, wherein the organic polymeric reinforcing material has a yield strength of no greater than about 20 MPa and an elongation at break of at least about 50%;

wherein the reinforcing material comprises a plurality of substantially continuous minimicrofibers having a diameter of no greater than about 10 microns within the pressure sensitive adhesive component;

wherein the pressure sensitive adhesive fibers comprise about 60 weight percent to about 95 weight percent of the pressure sensitive adhesive component and about 5 weight percent to about 40 weight percent of minimicrofibrous organic polymeric reinforcing material based on a total weight of the pressure sensitive adhesive fibers, and further wherein a nonwoven web comprising the pressure sensitive adhesive fibers and having a basis weight of about 55 g/m^2 has a maximum load of at least about 30 g/cm, which is at least about 150% of load at yield point, and an elongation at break of at least about 50%.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Camie S. Thompson whose telephone number is 571-272-1530. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:00 am - 4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rena L. Dye can be reached on 571-272-3186. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

RENA DYE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
A.U. 1774

6/9/05